

"Intestinal Auto-Intoxication." Combe. States.

Combe's "Auto-Intoxication," translated by States, is a book worthy of a discriminating perusal. The author has made an exhaustive collection of the literature extant on digestion, physiological and pathological, but his commentaries have not been so critical as they might have been. The translator might have made a more happy choice in some of the terms which he has employed.

The clinical portion of the work which is of especial interest to the practicing physician is not nearly so illuminating as one could wish. In days not so far gone, the stock phrases, when one was at a loss for a diagnosis, were "a touch of malaria" or "biliousness," now one would be tempted, in view of Combe's descriptions, to use "auto-intoxication" with the same easy grace.

The methods of diagnosis of this condition have undoubtedly improved—and they are all mentioned by the author. However, one could wish for a fuller explanation of technique and a more forcible demonstration of their utility. For example—methylene blue—as a test for hepatic insufficiency. Possibly the citation of a few cases with the diagnostic methods employed and the treatment with results would make the work more useful from a practical standpoint.

Organotherapy has received too little mention. While we are aware that hypothyroidism may contribute to auto-intoxication, nevertheless a description of the type of case to be aided by thyroid treatment would not be amiss. The portion devoted to therapy in general deserves close attention. The choice of cathartics and their results, and the properties and actions of the various intestinal antiseptics indicates careful study. The dietaries and the treatments by physical measures will be found very helpful. There is much to be learned from this work and we take pleasure in recommending it.

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High Frequency Current. By F. F. Strong, M. D., New York. Rebman & Co., Publishers. Price, \$3.00.

The technical portion of this book is well written, and undoubtedly the writer has the subject well in hand, but the overwhelming optimism in the therapeutic results of high frequency current as displayed in the therapeutic portion can not but call for condemnation. For example, the following paragraphs:

"Even where serious disturbance of the vasomotor system is present, such as the initial chill of lobar pneumonia, prompt and vigorous use of the Tesla current applied either by the effluve or wave current technic, will, if persistently applied, destroy the toxemia, break up the superficial chill and fever and actually abort the disease, the patient breaking out in a profuse perspiration, and the pulmonary congestion changing its character so that a mild catarrhal inflammation replaces the virulent pneumonic infection.

"In acute cystitis complicating gonorrheal urethritis a red vacuum electrode shaped like an ordinary sound is inserted in the bladder, while the red vacuum condensor is applied to the surface over the bladder.

"Epithelioma of the cervix uteri may be successfully treated by the double vacuum method recently devised by the writer. Cancer of the body of the uterus may be similarly treated substituting X-Ray condensor electrode for the low red vacuum electrode which is applied to the suprapubic region."

And so on ad infinitum from pulmonary tuberculosis to hemorrhoids, from tinea tonsuras to ingrown toe nails, all are treated more or less successfully, chiefly more. With such publications extant it is not surprising that the average physician and the average

patient look upon all lines of electrical treatment with scepticism.

Pure Milk and the Public Health. A manual of milk and dairy inspection, by Archibald Robinson Ward, B. S. A., D. V. M., with two chapters by Myer Edward Jaffa, M. S. Ithaca, N. Y., Taylor & Carpenter.

Few men are better fitted to write a book dealing with milk in its relation to public health than Dr. A. R. Ward, Assistant Professor in the University of California, and few books are more needed at this time of sanitation and sanitarians than the one covering this general subject which he has given us.

There is no lack of books on the special chemistry and bacteriology of milk, and the various divisions of this many headed subject have been thoroughly treated in a voluminous and widely scattered literature but I know of no other volume that offers as much of value in a single publication or where one who is interested in this subject of milk, whether as health officer, sanitarian, milk commissioner or progressive dairyman will find so many puzzling questions answered by an original and practical observer.

And herein lies its chief value—that it is the simple record of the personal experience of an original investigator. Whatever its faults may be from a literary standpoint,—and it makes no claim to being a rhetorical model—the book will make a lasting place for itself for its humanitarian value—for the work it has done in bringing again and more forcibly before the people the importance of pure and clean milk.

In the chapter on Bovine Tuberculosis the author has presented a resume of the subject that all physicians will do well to read, particularly those who are unacquainted with the important bearing this subject has upon public health.

The mistakes usually made by those who are inclined to belittle the work of modern sanitarians along the line of the eradication of bovine tuberculosis are three, viz: that it is doubtful if bovine tuberculosis is ever transmitted to human subjects—that the tuberculin test is conclusive in revealing the presence of this disease in cattle, and that pasteurization of milk is certain to remove any possible danger that may be present due to pathogenic organisms—that these beliefs are fallacious no one after reading this book can remain unconvinced.

Dr. Ward has been intimately associated with the production of pure milk in California as bacteriologist and veterinarian to the Milk Commission of the San Francisco County Medical Society and to the Oakland Milk Commission. In his capacity as examining expert he has been able to follow for years the conduct of certified herds, and the record of his experience in the tuberculin testing of cows and the efficacy of the test when properly performed is one that professional or commercial obstructionists cannot afford to ignore.

In the matter of the evils of the pasteurization of milk as at present practiced the author is not as emphatic as I should wish. Most of us remember when the sterilization and the pasteurization of milk was hailed as the remedy for the frightful infantile mortality then existing, and the spectacular alteration of the death rate which followed the substitution of the cooked for the uncooked product. The reaction which followed the use of heated milk when it became evident that pasteurization was a poor makeshift at best is of recent origin while the ultimate and inevitable solution—the substitution of a clean for a filthy substance—is not yet fully accepted even by the profession. The medical mind, sad to say, like all ponderous bodies, moves slowly and likely in the solution of this question as in some others, the lay intelligence will get there first.